

Biodiversity in times of Covid-19: views from Germany, Italy and the UK

30 June 2020 12-1 pm (CET)

COVID-19 has led to an unprecedented shutdown of large parts of the global economy with severe consequences for all countries. It has also provided a stark reminder of what happens when humanity's relationship with nature breaks down. Scientific research demonstrates the important role biodiversity loss – and in particular land-use change – plays in the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. As we emerge from the current health crisis, we have an opportunity to rethink our relationship with nature, and in so doing reduce our exposure to potentially deadly viruses.

The Embassies of Italy and the UK to Germany would like to invite you to a webinar, looking at the nexus between biodiversity and human health, at ideas of how urban environments could be adapted in response to the current crisis, and at the economic case for protecting and enhancing our natural assets.

Professor Jürgen Renn Director of the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science, will introduce the topic, with a focus on the concept of “planetary health” and will moderate the subsequent discussion with:

Dame Fiona Reynolds Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who will reflect on how our relationship with nature needs to change and what impact the current pandemic has in this regard. In her capacity as Advisory Panel member of the independent *Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity*, commissioned by the UK government, she will also shed light on how the report could help re-define our perception of nature.

Professor Stefano Boeri Full professor, architect and urban planner, president of *Fondazione La Triennale di Milano*, who will share his visions on the future of contemporary metropolis under the perspectives of biodiversity and urban forestry. The coexistence between humans and nature, fossil-free mobility, ‘green’ urban planning and health play fundamental roles in the projects he provides with his studio, *Stefano Boeri Architetti*, based in Milan and with offices in Shanghai and Tirana.

Please sign up [here](#) for the Zoom Webinar.

or R.S.V.P. by June 29th 2020 via email: berlino.cultura@esteri.it